

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTER 00782 311745Z

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 DHA-02 L-03 H-02 NSC-05

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FM AMCONSUL MONTERREY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2750

INJN RUESMO/AMEMBASSY MEXICO 1735

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, MX

SUBJ: W/W POSSIBLE PRISONER HUNGER STRIKE

REF: MEXICO 10963, MEXICO 11088

1. DURING MOST RECENT MONTHLY VISITS TO PRISONS IN DURANGO AND TORREON (AUGUST 9-10) AND SALTILLO (AUG. 26), ALL PRIOR TO OUR RECEIPT OF INFORMATION ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF HUNGER STRIKE, NO MENTION WAS MADE BY US CITIZEN PRISONERS OF ANY SUCH CONTEMPLATED ACTION IN THOSE PRISONS.

2. DURING AUGUST 27 CONOFF VISIT TO MONTERREY PENITENTIARY, PRISONERS THEMSELVES BROUGHT UP SUBJECT OF HUNGER STRIKE PROPOSED FOR SEPTEMBER 7. NONE OF THE TWENTY PRISONERS WHO MET WITH CONOFF EXPRESSED ANY INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING IN HUNGER STRIKE. SEVERAL OF THEM STATED THEY CONSIDERED THE IDEA RIDICULOUS, CONSIDERING THE COMPLEX LEGAL ISSUES INVOLVED IN THE TRANSFER OF SANCTIONS PROPOSAL. GIVEN THE ALTERNATIVE OF STARVING TO DEATH OR SERVING OUT THEIR SENTENCES IN MEXICO, THEY WOULD OPT FOR THE LATTER AND WOULD NOT JOIN THE HUNGER STRIKE. ALTHOUGH NOT ALL THE PRISONERS EXPRESSED THIS OPINION, NONE SEEMED TO BE TAKING THE PROPOSED HUNGER STRIKE SERIOUSLY. WHILE THE PRISONS HOPE THAT A QUOTE PRISONER EXCHANGE UNQUOTE WILL BE SUCCESSFULLY NEGOTIATED, THEY REALIZE THAT SUCH A PROPOSAL REQUIRES MUCH STUDY AND WILL NOT BE EFFECTED OVERNIGHT.

3. LOCAL PRESS, RADIO AND TELEVISION ON AUGUST 29-30 CARRIED
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WIRE COPY STORY ON THREAT OF AMERICAN PRISONERS TO INITIATE

HUNGER STRIKE. CONCEIVABLY, THIS PUBLICITY COULD CAUSE PRISONERS
OUR DISTRICT CHANGE MINDS AND JVN STRIKE. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO
MONITOR SITUATION AND INFORM DEPT AND EMBASSY OF ANY SIGNIFICANT
DEVELOPMENTS.
LAMBERT

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NNN

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